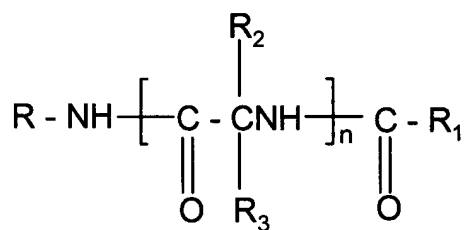


## IN THE CLAIMS:

The claims are amended as indicated in the following listing. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Any claim cancelled is cancelled without prejudice.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for alleviating pain in a patient suffering therefrom comprising administering to said patient an analgesic effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R is ~~hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl,~~ and R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

R<sub>1</sub> is ~~hydrogen or lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl lower alkyl, aryl, heterocyclic lower alkyl, heterocyclic, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl,~~ each and R<sub>1</sub> is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group; and

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, halo, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl, or ZY;

R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, halo, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl or ZY;

wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group ~~wherein the electron donating group or electron withdrawing group is acyclic~~; and wherein heterocyclic in R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> is furyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, piperidyl, pyrrolinyl, piperazinyl, quinolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, isoquinolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, morpholinyl, benzoxazolyl, tetrahydrofuryl, pyranyl, indazolyl, purinyl, indolinyl, pyrazolindinyl, imidazolindyl, imidazolindinyl, pyrrolidinyl, furazanyl, N-methylindolyl, methylfuryl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, epoxy, aziridino, oxetanyl or azetidiny;

Z is O, S,  $S(\ominus)_a$ , or NR<sub>6'</sub>[,] ~~or~~ PR<sub>4</sub>;

Y is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl, ~~heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl~~, and Y may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group, or

ZY taken together is NR<sub>4</sub>NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>4</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>, or ONR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>7</sub>[,] ~~or~~ PR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, PR<sub>4</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>, ~~SNR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, NR<sub>4</sub>SR<sub>5</sub>, SPR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>, PR<sub>4</sub>SR<sub>5</sub>, NR<sub>4</sub>PR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub> or PR<sub>4</sub>NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>7</sub>~~;



R<sub>6'</sub> is hydrogen[,], or lower alkyl, ~~lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl~~ and R<sub>6'</sub> may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

R<sub>4</sub>[,] and R<sub>5</sub> [and R<sub>6</sub>] are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl, wherein R<sub>4</sub>[,] and R<sub>5</sub> ~~and R<sub>6</sub>~~ may be are independently unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group; and

R<sub>7</sub> is COOR<sub>8</sub>, COR<sub>8</sub>, hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, or aryl lower alkyl, ~~lower alkenyl or lower alkynyl~~, which R<sub>7</sub> may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

R<sub>8</sub> is hydrogen or lower alkyl, or aryl lower alkyl, and the aryl or alkyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group; and

n is 1; and

~~a is 1-3,~~ wherein the electron withdrawing group and electron donating group are selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, trifluoromethyl, aryl loweralkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, mercapto, lower alkylthio, and lower alkyl dithio.

2. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl loweralkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic loweralkyl, or ZY; and

R<sub>3</sub> is loweralkyl, aryl, aryl loweralkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic loweralkyl or ZY;

~~Z is O, NR<sub>4</sub> or PR<sub>4</sub>;~~

~~Y is hydrogen or lower alkyl or~~

~~ZY is NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>5</sub>OR<sub>6</sub>, ONR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>5</sub>C-R<sub>6</sub> or NR<sub>5</sub>C-OR<sub>6</sub>,~~

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{NR}_5\text{C-R}_6 \text{ or NR}_5\text{C-OR}_6 \text{---} \\ \parallel \qquad \qquad \parallel \\ \text{O} \qquad \qquad \text{O} \end{array}$$

wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> are independently unsubstituted or substituted by an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 6 wherein

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl or ZY;

~~Z is O, NR<sub>4</sub> or PR<sub>4</sub>;~~

~~Y is hydrogen or lower alkyl;~~

~~ZY is NR<sub>5</sub>NR<sub>6</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>5</sub>OR<sub>6</sub>, ONR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, NR<sub>5</sub>C-R<sub>6</sub> or NR<sub>5</sub>C-OR<sub>6</sub>,~~

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{---} \text{NR}_5\text{C-R}_6 \text{ or NR}_5\text{C-OR}_6 \text{---} \\ \parallel \qquad \qquad \parallel \\ \text{O} \qquad \qquad \text{O} \end{array}$$

which R<sub>3</sub> may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group.

8. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 6-wherein R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl, which may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating or electron withdrawing group, ~~NR<sub>4</sub>OR<sub>5</sub>, or ONR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>7</sub>.~~

9. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 8 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with hydroxy or lower alkoxy, or NR<sub>4</sub>OR<sub>5</sub> or ~~ONR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>7</sub>~~, wherein R<sub>4</sub>[,] and R<sub>5</sub>, ~~R<sub>6</sub> and R<sub>7</sub>~~ are independently hydrogen or lower alkyl, R is aryl lower alkyl, which

aryl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group and R<sub>1</sub> is lower alkyl.

10. (Original) The method according to Claim 9 wherein aryl is phenyl.

11. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein one of R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> is heterocyclic.

12. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein heterocyclic is heteroaromatic.

13. (Original) The method according to Claim 11 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is furyl, pyridyl, thienyl or thiazolyl.

14. (Original) The method according to Claim 9 wherein aryl is phenyl and is unsubstituted or substituted with halo.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the compound is

(R)-N-Benzyl-2-acetamido-3-methoxy- propionamide;

O-methyl-N-acetyl-D-serine-m-fluorobenzylamide;

O-methyl-N-acetyl-D-serine-p-fluorobenzylamide;

N-acetyl-D-phenylglycinebenzylamide;

D-1,2-(N, O-dimethylhydroxylamino)-2-acetamido acetic acid benzylamide; or

D-1,2-(O-methylhydroxylamino)-2-acetamido acetic acid benzylamide.

16. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the pain is neuropathic pain.

17. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the pain is neuropathic pain.

18. (Original) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the pain is nociceptive pain.

19. (Original) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the pain is nociceptive pain.

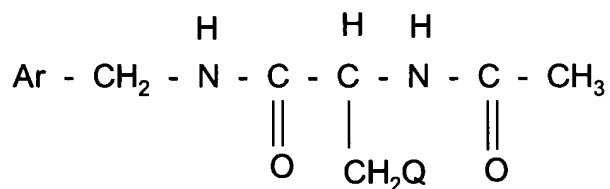
20-50. (Cancelled)

51-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the carbon atom which is substituted by R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> is in the D configuration.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the compound is of the formula:



wherein

Ar is aryl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating or electron withdrawing group, and

Q is lower alkoxy.

59. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58 wherein Ar is unsubstituted aryl or aryl substituted with halo.

60. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58 wherein Q is methoxy.

61. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58 wherein Q is methoxy and Ar is unsubstituted aryl or aryl substituted with halo.

62. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 58 wherein the carbon atom which is bonded to CH<sub>2</sub>Q is in the D configuration.

63-72. (Cancelled)

73. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein the pain is chronic pain.

74. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 6 wherein the pain is chronic pain.

75. (Cancelled)

76. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim ~~75~~ 1 wherein R is benzyl which may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group.

77. (Cancelled)

78. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl.

79. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R is benzyl ~~aryl~~ ~~lower alkyl~~, R<sub>1</sub> is lower alkyl and R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen.

80. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 79 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>Q, NR<sub>4</sub>OR<sub>5</sub> or ~~NR<sub>4</sub>R<sub>5</sub>~~, NR<sub>4</sub>NR<sub>5</sub>R<sub>7</sub>, wherein Q is lower alkoxy, R<sub>4</sub> is hydrogen or alkyl containing 1-3 carbon atoms, R<sub>5</sub> is hydrogen or alkyl containing 1-3 carbon atoms and R<sub>7</sub> is hydrogen or alkyl containing 1-3 carbon atoms.

81. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 80 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>Q.

82. (Cancelled)

83. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is benzyl, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, and R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>Q wherein Q is methoxy.

84. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is m-fluorobenzyl, R<sub>2</sub> is H and R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>Q, wherein Q is methoxy.



85. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is p-fluorobenzyl, R<sub>2</sub> is H, and R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>Q wherein Q is methoxy.

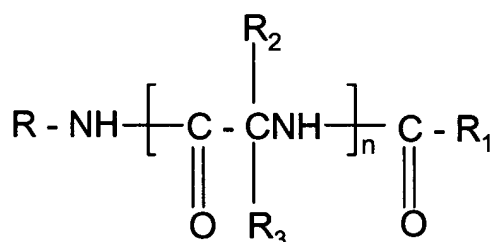
86. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is benzyl, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is phenyl.

87. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is benzyl, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is N(CH<sub>3</sub>)OCH<sub>3</sub>.

88. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is benzyl, R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen and R<sub>3</sub> is NH(OCH<sub>3</sub>).

89. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 1 wherein R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, R is fluorophenyl, R<sub>2</sub> is H, and R<sub>3</sub> is CH<sub>2</sub>Q, wherein Q is methoxy.

90. (New) A method for alleviating pain in a patient suffering therefrom comprising administering to said patient an analgesic effective amount of a compound of the formula:



wherein

R is aryl lower alkyl and R is unsubstituted or is substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro,

lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, trifluoromethyl, aryl loweralkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, mercapto, lower alkylthio, and lower alkylidithio;

R<sub>1</sub> is methyl, and is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, aryl loweralkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, mercapto, lower alkylthio, and lower alkylidithio;

R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, halo, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl, or ZY;

R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, halo, heterocyclic, heterocyclic lower alkyl, lower alkyl heterocyclic, lower cycloalkyl, lower cycloalkyl lower alkyl or ZY;

wherein R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> may be unsubstituted or substituted with at least one electron withdrawing group or electron donating group and wherein heterocyclic in R<sub>2</sub> and R<sub>3</sub> is furyl, thienyl, pyrazolyl, pyrrolyl, imidazolyl, indolyl, thiazolyl, oxazolyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, piperidyl, pyrrolinyl, piperazinyl, quinolyl, triazolyl, tetrazolyl, isoquinolyl, benzofuryl, benzothienyl, morpholinyl, benzoxazolyl, tetrahydrofuryl, pyranyl, indazolyl, purinyl, indolinyl, pyrazolindinyl, imidazolyl, imidazolindinyl, pyrrolidinyl, furazanyl, N-methylindolyl, methylfuryl, pyridazinyl, pyrimidinyl, pyrazinyl, epoxy, aziridino, oxetanyl or azetidiny;

Z is O, or NR<sub>6</sub>';

Y is hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or lower alkynyl, and Y may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or an electron withdrawing group, or

ZY taken together is  $\text{NR}_4\text{NR}_5\text{R}_7$ ,  $\text{NR}_4\text{OR}_5$ , or  $\text{ONR}_4\text{R}_7$ ;

$\text{R}_6$ ' is hydrogen or lower alkyl;

$\text{R}_4$  and  $\text{R}_5$  are independently hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl, aryl lower alkyl, lower alkenyl, or lower alkynyl, and  $\text{R}_4$  and  $\text{R}_5$  may be independently unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group;

$\text{R}_7$  is  $\text{COOR}_8$ ,  $\text{COR}_8$ , hydrogen, lower alkyl, aryl or aryl lower alkyl, which  $\text{R}_7$  may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or electron donating group;

$\text{R}_8$  is hydrogen or lower alkyl, or aryl lower alkyl, and the aryl or alkyl group may be unsubstituted or substituted with an electron withdrawing group or an electron donating group; and

n is 1.

91. (New) The method according to Claim 90 wherein  $\text{R}_1$  is methyl which is unsubstituted.

92. (New) The method according to Claim 90 wherein R is benzyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted on the phenyl ring with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group.

93. (New) The method according to Claim 91 wherein R is benzyl, which is unsubstituted or substituted on the phenyl ring with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group.

94. (New) The method according to Claim 90 wherein  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen.

95. (New) The method according to Claim 91 wherein  $\text{R}_2$  is hydrogen.

96. (New) The method according to Claim 92 wherein R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen.

97. (New) The method according to Claim 93 wherein R<sub>2</sub> is hydrogen.

98. (New) The method according to Claim 90 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

99. (New) The method according to Claim 91 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

100. (New) The method according to Claim 92 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxycarbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower

alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

101. (New) The method according to Claim 93 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

102. (New) The method according to Claim 94 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

103. (New) The method according to Claim 95 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

104. (New) The method according to Claim 96 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

105. (New) The method according to Claim 97 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is a lower alkyl which is unsubstituted or substituted with an electron donating group or electron withdrawing group selected from the group consisting of halo, nitro, carboxy, lower alkenyl, lower alkynyl, formyl, aryl, carboxyamido, trifluoromethyl, lower alkoxy carbonyl, aryl lower alkanoyl, hydroxy, lower alkoxy, lower alkyl, amino, lower alkylamino, dilower alkylamino, aryloxy, mercapto or lower alkylthio.

106. (New) The method according to any one of Claims 90-105 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl substituted by an electron donating group.

107. (New) The method according to Claim 106 wherein R<sub>3</sub> is lower alkyl substituted by lower alkoxy.